

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2658

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: MNUC SOPN PDIP NATO DA
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF FIRST DAY OF NPG MEETING, APRIL 18,
1978, FREDERIKSHAVN, DENMARK

REF: A. COPENHAGEN 2465 B. COPENHAGEN 2116 C. COPENHAGEN 2074

1. THE APRIL 19 DANISH PRESS CONTAINS A BROAD COVERAGE OF THE NPG
MEETING AND LIMITED ATTENDANT DEMONSTRATIONS. THE SUBSTANCE OF
THE COVERAGE, HOWEVER, IS RELATIVELY THIN.

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2. THE PRESS NOTED THAT THE MEETING STARTED DRAMATICALLY WITH
THE DEPARTURE OF THE ITALIANS AROUND NOON AS THE RESULT OF THE
REPORT OF THE EXECUTION OF ALDO MORO. SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS PAID
A BRIEF HOMAGE TO MORO'S MEMORY AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE WAS
OBSERVED.

3. THE PRESS SAYS THAT THE NPG MEETING ITSELF STARTED WITH THE REPORT BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN ON THE OVERALL NUCLEAR BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT.

4. THE ONLY PRESS INTERVIEW GIVEN WAS THAT GRANTED BY DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER POUL SOGAARD. SOGAARD IS QUOTED IN THE COPENHAGEN DAILY POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT/LEFT-OF-CENTER) AS SAYING THAT THE "NEUTRON BOMB" WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS WERE, HOWEVER, DISCUSSED AND THE "NEUTRON BOMB" HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION SINCE THE WEST HOPES TO MAKE A "DEAL" WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO REDUCE NUCLEAR ARMS. ALTHOUGH POLITIKEN STATES SOGAARD DID NOT SAY WHAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SUCH A "EAL", THE INTELLECTUAL-LEFTIST INFORMATION LINKED THE NEUTRON BOMB WITH THE SOVIET SS-20.

5. ACCORDING TO COPENHAGEN'S BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE), SOGAARD STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED AT THE NPG THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS, IN ADDITION TO PRIME AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, DC AT THE END OF MAY.

6. THE LARGEST DAILY OUTSIDE COPENHAGEN, THE INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE JYLLANDSPOSTEN FROM AARHUS, QUOTED THE "AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP, DICK SCHERRER" AS OBSERVING THAT IT TAKES A NUMBER OF YEARS TO DEVELOP A SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENT SYSTEM SUCH AS THE "NEUTRON BOMB". SCHERRER WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO CITED AS COMMENTING THAT THE F-16, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN PURCHASED BY DENMARK, IS AN ARMS SYSTEM OF DETERRENCE WHICH CAN BE SUED FOR WAR-HEADS OF ANY KIND.

7. BASED ON PRESS REPORTS, IT APPEARS THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE "NEUTRON BOMB" WHILE WIDESPREAD, WERE SMALLER THAN ANTICIPATED AND WERE PEACEFUL EVERYWHERE WITH NO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE. A SYNTHESIS OF PRESS REPORTS WOULD PUT THE NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATORS AT FREDERIKSHAVN AT ABOUT 2,000 WITH 500 UNIFORMED POLICE AND 400 OFFICIALS AND SECURITY PEOPLE TO CONTROL THEM. ABOUT 2-3,000 DEMONSTRATORS ALSO TOOK PART IN MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST THE "NEUTRON BOMB" BOTH IN AALBORG AND COPENHAGEN.

8. IN COPENHAGEN, THE DEMONSTRATORS FIRST GATHERED AND GAVE SPEECHES IN FRONT OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY THEN MARCHED THE TWO MILES TO THE EMBASSY WHERE SPEECHES AND SOME SINGING OCCURRED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY'S FRONT DOOR. THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 900-1,000 TOOK PART IN THIS PROTEST.

9. ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WERE THE "COOPERATION COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY" AND THE "SPECIAL WORKERS UNION" IN AALBORG AS WELL AS THE GENERAL

LABOR UNION LEADERSHIP OF THAT CITY. THE OVERALL ORGANIZER OF THE
DEMONSTRATIONS WAS THE "COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND SECURITY".
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